

Applicant : Brian Cooper
Assignee : Avid Technology, Inc.
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Filed : April 20, 2001
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Attorney Docket No.: A2001006

REMARKS

In response to the Office Action mailed November 14, 2007, the Applicant submits this Reply. In view of the foregoing amendments and following remarks, reconsideration is requested.

After entry of the foregoing amendments, claims 1-6 and 13 remain in this application, of which claim 1 is independent. No fee is due for claims for this amendment. In the Office Action, claims 1-6 and 13 were rejected. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

The Office Action included a rejection of claims 7-9 and 14 under 35 U.S.C. §102. These claims have been cancelled; thus, the rejection is moot. Claims 10-12 were also rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a). These claims have been cancelled; thus, the rejection is moot.

Rejections of claims 1-6 and 13 under 35 USC § 103

Claims 1-5 and 13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,659,793 ("Escobar") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,597,375 ("Yawitz").

Independent claim 1 recites "a user interface for receiving a user selection whether to place interactive content on the at least one interactive track at a single point in time with a locator object or at a point in time with a duration with a source clip object...." Neither Escobar nor Yawitz describes a user interface that allows placement of interactive content on a timeline at a point in time with a duration with a source clip object, or at a single point in time with a locator object, based on a user selection.

In rejecting claim 92, the Examiner stated:

Escobar suggests a user interface selection to place interactive content on the interactive track ... or at a point in time with a duration with a source clip object. Escobar strongly suggests the limitation since Escobar discloses a user interface for receiving a user selection of different icons to place on the interactive timeline track (Fig. 1, Fig. 6, col. 11, l. 31-60), and Escobar further teaches placing icons representing video source clips, with time codes representing duration, on the timeline track. Escobar does not teach that the duration of the source clip is visually represented on the timeline interface and for that reason does not disclose a user selection between locator object and source clip object, instead Escobar teaches that icons are used to represent all objects on the timeline including video

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source clips and thus does not disclose a source clip a source clip interface object distinct from the locator object. However, Yawitz discloses a video editing system with a timeline interface for user selection of a video clip, including a timeline which allows a user to place a source video clip object at a point in time on the timeline with a duration, and allows the user to view and control both duration and the point in time on the interactive track (Abstract, Fig. 2, col. 1, l. 30-65; col. 3, l. 12-col. 4, l. 3). (Office Action, p. 7.)

The Applicants respectfully disagree with the Examiner's conclusion that Escobar suggests a user interface selection to place interactive content on the interactive track at a single point in time with a locator object or at a point in time with a duration with a source clip object. The Office Action is relying upon a description of a video clip, which inherently has a duration. Escobar does not describe interactive objects, which do not inherently have a duration, as something that should be represented as source clip objects with durations. Moreover, Escobar does not describe user selection from among two possible representations of interactive content. Yawitz is not understood to remedy the forgoing deficiencies of Escobar, because Yawitz describes editing single source videos, and thus describes nothing more than Escobar.

According to Escobar, an editing system has a user interface that includes "[t]ime lines 140, 141, 150, 151 and 160 [which] are represented as a plurality of tracks." (Escobar, col. 6, l. 22-23.) "At least two video tracks ... are preferred." (Escobar, col. 6, l. 23-24.) "At least one interactive object track 160 should be included ..." (Escobar, col. 6, l. 26-27.) "Separate directories or 'bins' are preferably maintained for video objects, audio objects, text/graphical objects, special effects, program objects and applications." (Escobar, col. 6, l. 55-58.) These audiovisual assets are stored in "files ... in industry standard format" such as "open media framework [OMF] format." (Escobar, col. 7, l. 52-55.) In the user interface, a "[b]utton 173 invokes application creation or editing functions which permit objects to be assembled into applications with relative timing specified by their placement along the timeline tracks." (Escobar, col. 6, l. 37-40.) The duration property of audiovisual asset objects may be edited using button 172. (Escobar, col. 6, l. 36-37.) An audiovisual asset may have an associated time code that "allows an edit point to be defined as a certain duration from a clearly delineated starting point for asset playback." (Escobar, col. 8, l. 16-18.) However, when an audiovisual

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asset is converted to digital without a time code, one is applied in order to allow "an edit point to be defined as a certain duration from a clearly delineated starting point for asset playback." Thus, "portions of an asset ... can be specified in terms of starting and ending time or starting time and duration." (Escobar, col. 8, l. 19-21.)

According to Escobar, the linked lists for "all timeline tracks are merged into a single IDL." (Escobar, col. 10, l. 35.) "The IDL is essentially as ASCII text file and can be read and edited as such." (Escobar, col. 10, l. 46-47.) In particular, "when it is desired to edit interactive multimedia applications represented as IDLs, simple text editing of the text file is all that is required.... This involves reading the IDL into a text editor, . . . adding, deleting or modifying ... the text, iterating ... as necessary and storing the revised IDL.... The simplicity of the editing process also permits very easy refreshment of interactive multimedia applications" (Escobar, col. 10, l. 47-55.)

With regard to computer program objects, Escobar repeats in several locations that execution of the objects represented on the timeline occurs in a time sequence indicated by their position on the timeline, which is a result of the user dragging and dropping a program object onto the interactive track timeline. Interactive objects are not described as having a duration. For example, with reference to Figure 7, the example program object that starts at time 770 does not have an associated "begin" or "end" time. Further, none of the six (6) exemplary program objects disclosed at column 8, lines 37-42 are described as having a duration, adjustable or not. The creation of objects with editable properties described with reference to Fig. 5B clearly relates to audiovisual assets having "beginning and ending time codes" and optional multimedia mnemonics.

Escobar is silent with regard to any user selection of the kind of representation to be used for interactive objects, and with regard to the representation of interactive content (program objects) in the timeline at a point in time with a duration with a source clip object.

In contrast, as explained in paragraph [0017], representing the interactive content over a range of time permits editing of both time-based media and interactive content together and maintaining frame accurate synchronization.

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Yawitz describes "a user interface for selection of a video clip in a video editing system." (Yawitz, Abstract.) The user interface of Yawitz allows the user to select a video clip from a video data source by providing "a first control element positionable to select a starting frame of a video clip from a video data source, ... a second control element positionable to select an ending frame of the video clip" (Yawitz, col. 1, l. 32-37.) The user interface may also include an indicator bar, which "may include a highlighted section corresponding to a portion of the video data source located between the starting and ending frames of the video clip." (Yawitz, col.1, l. 51-53.) Yawitz describes a system for selecting a video clip excerpt from a single video data source. (Yawitz, Abstract, Fig. 2, col. 1 l. 30-65, col. 3, l. 31-col. 4, l. 3.) Thus, Yawitz describes nothing more than Escobar: that a video clip may be represented in the user interface with a duration. Yawitz does not make any mention of interactive content. Therefore, Yawitz does not disclose or suggest a user interface selection to place interactive content on the interactive track ... or at a point in time with a duration with a source clip object.

Neither Escobar nor Yawitz describes interactive content as having a duration. Neither reference describes a user selection of the representation of the interactive content where one of the options is a source clip with a duration. Because neither Escobar nor Yawitz, either alone or in combination, describe "a user interface for receiving a user selection whether to place interactive content on the at least one interactive track at a single point in time with a locator object or at a point in time with a duration with a source clip object," as recited in claim 1, claim 1 cannot be rendered obvious by any combination of Escobar and Yawitz. Accordingly, the rejection of claim 1 in view of Escobar and Yawitz should be withdrawn.

The dependent claims 2-5 and 13 depend from claim 1 and are allowable at least for the reasons discussed in relation to independent claim 1. Accordingly, the rejection of claims 1-5 and 13 in view of Escobar and Yawitz should be withdrawn.

Claim 6 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Escobar in view of Yawitz as applied to claim 1, and further in view of U.S. Patent No.6,324,335 ("Kanda").

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Kanda is not understood to remedy the foregoing deficiencies of Escobar and Yawitz, discussed above in relation to independent claim 1. Dependent claim 6 depends from claim 1 and is allowable at least for the reasons discussed in relation to independent claim 1.

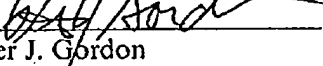
In view of the foregoing, the rejection of claims 1-6 and 13 in view of Escobar, Yawitz and Kanda should be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, this application should now be in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, after this reply, that the application is not in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the Applicants' attorney at the telephone number listed below.

If this response is not considered timely filed and if a request for an extension of time is otherwise absent, Applicants hereby request any necessary extension of time. If there is a fee occasioned by this response, including an extension fee, please charge any fee to **Deposit Account No. 50-0876**, referencing Attorney Docket Number A2001006.

Respectfully submitted,

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